

AGENDA



Thursday, June 8, 2006

+ Back

**Austin Water Utility
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL
ACTION**

ITEM 5

Subject: Approve an ordinance amending Chapter 15-1 of the Code relating to Cross-Connection Regulations to facilitate the development of the City's reclaimed water program.

Amount and Source of Funding: This action does not affect operating or capital improvement budgets of the Austin Water Utility.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is not required.

Additional Backup Material
(click to open)

- [DRAFT ORDINANCE
CROSS CONNECT 00153W](#)
- [050306 W&WW
Recommendation](#)

For More Information: Dan Pedersen, 972-0074, Denise Avery, 972-0104

Prior Council Action:

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by Water and Wastewater Commission

The Utility is in the process of expanding its reclaimed water program. Customers to date include City-owned wastewater treatment plants, Hornsby Bend wastewater treatment plant, and seven golf courses.

Several potential customers in the RMMA redevelopment have inquired about using reclaimed water. Potential customers however, can face significant upfront connection costs. In many cases the upfront connection costs may be so large that, even with low reclaimed water rates, it is uneconomical for potential customers to connect.

The primary modifications to the ordinance are as follows:

- Change backflow prevention device on reclaimed water service line from a double check valve to a single check valve.
- Change backflow prevention device requirement on fire lines from reduced pressure backflow assembly to a double check valve when reclaimed water is brought to a property.

The proposed ordinance change:

- Encourages reclaimed water connections by reducing upfront connection costs and shortening payback period;
- Makes backflow prevention on fire lines consistent with the potable water system;
- Provides backflow protection equal to or greater than other municipalities operating

reclaimed water systems (Georgetown, Orlando, Lakeway, San Antonio);

- Still requires an annual inspection and certification of backflow prevention devices;
- Is more stringent than Texas Commission on Environmental Quality requirements; and
- Is allowable under the Plumbing Code.

ORDINANCE NO.

1 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 15-1-2, 15-1-12, AND 15-1-13 OF THE
2 CITY CODE RELATING TO CROSS CONNECTIONS OF WATER UTILITY
3 LINES.
4

5 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:
6

7 PART 1. Section 15-1-2 (*Definitions*) of the City Code is amended to amend Paragraph
8 (19) and to add new Paragraph (22) to read as follows and renumber the remaining
9 paragraphs accordingly:

10 (19) RECLAIMED WATER has the meaning prescribed in Section 25-9-
11 382(12) (*Definitions*) and Appendix J, section J2 of Chapter 25-12.
12 Article 6 (*Uniform Plumbing Code*), [~~of the City Code~~].

13 (22) SINGLE-CHECK VALVE means an independently acting internally
14 loaded check valve.

15 PART 2. Section 15-1-12(C) (*Customer Duties*) of the City Code is amended to read:

16 (C) The director may not install or authorize the installation of a permanent water
17 or reclaimed water meter unless the customer has submitted a test and
18 maintenance report for each backflow prevention assembly installed on a site
19 and all inspections are final as required by Chapter 25-12. Article 1 (*Building*
20 Code).

21 PART 3. Section 15-1-13 (*Special Hazards*) of the City Code is amended to repeal
22 Subsection (E), add new Subsections (E), (F), and (G) to read as follows, and reletter the
23 remaining subsections accordingly:

24 (E) Before using a service connection to the City's public water supply, a retail
25 customer who has a service connection to a reclaimed water system must
26 install and test, as applicable, assemblies that meet or exceed the
27 protectiveness of the following:

28 (1) a reduced pressure backflow assembly at each potable water service
29 connection;

30 (2) a double-check valve assembly at each fire line connection at the
property line; and

1 (3) a single-check valve assembly at each reclaimed water service
2 connection.

3 (F) Before using a service connection to the City's public water supply, a retail
4 customer who has a service connection to a reclaimed water system must, not
5 later than the date established by the director, conduct:

6 (1) an operational test of each backflow prevention assembly installed at
7 each:

8 (a) potable water service connection; and

9 (b) fire line connection.

10 (G) When a service connection to the City's public water supply is in use, a retail
11 customer who has a service connection to a reclaimed water system must, not
12 later than the date established by the director, conduct:

13 (1) an operational test of each backflow prevention assembly annually, or
14 more frequently as established by the director; and

15 (2) an annual cross connection inspection as prescribed by the Utility
16 Criteria Manual.

17 **PART 4.** This ordinance takes effect on _____, 2006.

18 **PASSED AND APPROVED**

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22 _____, 2006

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§
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Will Wynn
Mayor

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27 **APPROVED:** _____
28 David Allan Smith
29 City Attorney

27 **ATTEST:** _____
28 Shirley A. Gentry
29 City Clerk

No. 050306-K

**RECOMMEND REVISION OF CROSS-CONNECTION REGULATIONS (AUSTIN
CITY CODE, TITLE 15, CHAPTER 15-1)**

**May 3, 2006
REGULAR MEETING
VOTE: 8-0-0-1**

Motion made by: Lee
Commissioners Consenting: Friese, Warner, Gonzalez, Raun, Scott-Ryan, Pool, Coleman
Commissioners Dissenting:
Commissioners Abstaining:
Commissioners Absent: Chan

The Water and Wastewater Commission recommend a resolution that Council recommends a revision of Cross-Connection Regulations (Austin City Code, Title 15, Chapter 15-1) to reduce impediments to the development of the reclaimed water program. In particular, this action defines terms, promotes consistency with the Plumbing Code, and modifies backflow prevention device requirements when reclaimed water is brought to a property.



Michael Warner, Chairperson
Water and Wastewater Commission



Date